



**SUNDAY BULLETIN**  
May 18, 2025

**Sunday of the  
Samaritan Woman**



**SAINTS MARKELLA & DEMETRIOS GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH**

104 Bryn Mawr Blvd., Mary Esther, FL 32569 | [office@stmarkella.org](mailto:office@stmarkella.org) | (850)244-0822 | [www.stmarkella.org](http://www.stmarkella.org)  
Rev. Fr. John Wallace, Presiding Priest | [frjohn@stmarkella.org](mailto:frjohn@stmarkella.org) | (850)324-3603  
Office Hours: Tuesday - Thursday 9am - 2pm

# Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

The Holy Martyr Photina (Svetlana) the Samaritan Woman, her sons Victor (named Photinus) and Joses; and her sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskevĕ, Kyriake; Nero's daughter Domnina; and the Martyr Sebastian: The holy Martyr Photina was the Samaritan Woman, with whom the Savior conversed at Jacob's Well (John. 4:5-42).

During the time of the emperor Nero (54-68), who displayed excessive cruelty against Christians, Saint Photina lived in Carthage with her younger son Joses and fearlessly preached the Gospel there. Her eldest son Victor fought bravely in the Roman army against barbarians, and was appointed military commander in the city of Attalia (Asia Minor). Later, Nero called him to Italy to arrest and punish Christians.

Sebastian, an official in Italy, said to Saint Victor, "I know that you, your mother and your brother, are followers of Christ. As a friend I advise you to submit to the will of the emperor. If you inform on any Christians, you will receive their wealth. I shall write to your mother and brother, asking them not to preach Christ in public. Let them practice their faith in secret."

Saint Victor replied, "I want to be a preacher of Christianity like my mother and brother." Sebastian said, "O Victor, we all know what woes await you, your mother and brother." Then Sebastian suddenly felt a sharp pain in his eyes. He was dumbfounded, and his face was somber.

For three days he lay there blind, without uttering a word. On the fourth day he declared, "The God of the Christians is the only true God." Saint Victor asked why Sebastian had suddenly changed his mind. Sebastian replied, "Because Christ is calling me." Soon he was baptized, and immediately regained his sight. Saint Sebastian's servants, after witnessing the miracle, were also baptized.

Reports of this reached Nero, and he commanded that the Christians be brought to him at Rome. Then the Lord Himself appeared to the confessors and said, "Fear not, for I am with you. Nero, and all who serve him, will be vanquished." The Lord said to Saint Victor, "From this day forward, your name will be Photinus, because through you, many will be enlightened and will believe in Me." The Lord then told the Christians to strengthen and encourage Saint Sebastian to persevere until the end.

All these things, and even future events, were revealed to Saint Photina. She left Carthage in the company of several Christians and joined the confessors in Rome.



## Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

At Rome the emperor ordered the saints to be brought before him and he asked them whether they truly believed in Christ. All the confessors refused to renounce the Savior. Then the emperor gave orders to smash the martyrs' finger joints. During the torments, the confessors felt no pain, and their hands remained unharmed.

Nero ordered that Saints Sebastian, Photinus and Joses be blinded and locked up in prison, and Saint Photina and her five sisters Anatola, Phota, Photis, Paraskev  and Kyriake were sent to the imperial court under the supervision of Nero's daughter Domnina. Saint Photina converted both Domnina and all her servants to Christ. She also converted a sorcerer, who had brought her poisoned food to kill her.

Three years passed, and Nero sent to the prison for one of his servants, who had been locked up. The messengers reported to him that Saints Sebastian, Photinus and Joses, who had been blinded, had completely recovered, and that people were visiting them to hear their preaching, and indeed the whole prison had been transformed into a bright and fragrant place where God was glorified.

Nero then gave orders to crucify the saints, and to beat their naked bodies with straps. On the fourth day the emperor sent servants to see whether the martyrs were still alive. But, approaching the place of the tortures, the servants fell blind. An angel of the Lord freed the martyrs from their crosses and healed them. The saints took pity on the blinded servants, and restored their sight by their prayers to the Lord. Those who were healed came to believe in Christ and were soon baptized.

In an impotent rage Nero gave orders to flay the skin from Saint Photina and to throw the martyr down a well. Sebastian, Photinus and Joses had their legs cut off, and they were thrown to dogs, and then had their skin flayed off. The sisters of Saint Photina also suffered terrible torments. Nero gave orders to cut off their breasts and then to flay their skin. An expert in cruelty, the emperor readied the fiercest execution for Saint Photis: they tied her by the feet to the tops of two bent-over trees. When the ropes were cut the trees sprang upright and tore the martyr apart. The emperor ordered the others beheaded. Saint Photina was removed from the well and locked up in prison for twenty days.

After this Nero had her brought to him and asked if she would now relent and offer sacrifice to the idols. Saint Photina spit in the face of the emperor, and laughing at him, said, "O most impious of the blind, you profligate and stupid man! Do you think me so deluded that I would consent to renounce my Lord Christ and instead offer sacrifice to idols as blind as you?"

Hearing such words, Nero gave orders to again throw the martyr down the well, where she surrendered her soul to God (ca. 66).

## **HYMNS FOR THE DAY**

### **Resurrectional Apolytikion, Mode 4**

When the women disciples of the Lord heard the Angel joyously proclaim the resurrection, they cast aside the ancestral verdict, and boasting in glory they said to the Apostles, "Death has been despoiled! Christ God has risen, granting the great mercy to the world!"

### **Apolytikion of the Feast, Mode pl 4**

O Lord, midway through the feast, give drink to my thirsty soul from the living waters of right belief. You, O Savior, proclaimed to everyone, "Let whoever is thirsty come to Me and drink." You are the fountain of life, O Christ our God. Glory to You!

### **Apolytikion of St. Markella, Mode 1**

Obedient to the laws of the Lord and to His divine teachings, you kept them blamelessly, O Markella and being frightened of the violence of your father who pursued you. O pure bride of Christ you hid in the mountains where he found you and took your life. Glory to Him who has given you strength, Glory to Him who has crowned you, Glory to Him who works healings through you to everyone.

### **Apolytikion of St. Demetrios, Mode 3**

The world found in you a great champion in danger. A victor who could turn the nations back. As you restrained Levi in the arena, you also inspired Nestor to courage. Therefore, Holy Great Martyr Demetrios, entreat Christ God, to grant us great, great mercy!

### **Kontakion of Pascha, Mode pl. 4**

Though You went down into the tomb, O Immortal One, yet You brought down the dominion of Hades; and You rose as the victor, O Christ our God; and You called out "Rejoice" to the Myrrh-bearing women, and gave peace to Your Apostles, O Lord who to the fallen grant resurrection.

## **EPISTLE READING Acts 11:19 – 30**

In those days, the apostles who were scattered because of the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia and Cyprus and Antioch, speaking the word to none except Jews. But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who on coming to Antioch spoke to the Hellenists also, preaching the Lord Jesus. And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number that believed turned to the Lord. News of this came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent Barnabas to Antioch. When he came and saw the grace of God, he was glad; and he exhorted them all to remain faithful to the Lord with steadfast purpose; for he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a large company was added to the Lord. So Barnabas went to Tarsus to look for Saul; and when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. For a whole year they met with the church, and taught a large company of people; and in Antioch the disciples were for the first time called Christians. Now in these days prophets came down from Jerusalem to Antioch. And one of them named Agabos stood up and foretold by the Spirit that there would be a great famine over all the world; and this took place in the days of Claudius. And the disciples determined, every one according to his ability, to send relief to the brethren who lived in Judea, and they did so, sending it to the elders by the hand of Barnabas and Saul.

## **GOSPEL READING John 4:5 – 42**

At that time, Jesus came to a city of Samaria, called Sychar, near the field that Jacob gave to his son Joseph. Jacob's well was there, and so Jesus, wearied as he was with his journey, sat down beside the well. It was about the sixth hour. There came a woman of Samaria to draw water. Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink." For his disciples had gone away into the city to buy food. The Samaritan woman said to him, "How is it that you, a Jew, ask a drink of me, a woman of Samaria?" For Jews have no dealings with Samaritans. Jesus answered her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked him and he would have given you living water." The woman said to him, "Sir, you have nothing to draw with, and the well is deep; where do you get that living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well, and drank from it himself, and his sons, and his cattle?" Jesus said to her, "Everyone who drinks of this water will thirst again, but whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst; the water that I shall give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life." The woman said to him, "Sir, give me this water, that I may not thirst, nor come here to draw." Jesus said to her, "Go, call your husband, and come here." The woman answered him, "I have no husband." Jesus said to her, "You are right in saying, 'I have no husband'; for you have had five husbands, and he whom you now have is not your husband; this you said truly." The woman said to him, "Sir, I perceive that you are a prophet. Our fathers worshiped on this mountain; and you say that Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship." Jesus said to her, "Woman, believe me, the hour is coming when neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem will you worship the Father. You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know, for salvation is from the Jews. But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth." The woman said to him, "I know that the Messiah is coming (he who is called Christ); when he comes, he will show us all things." Jesus said to her, "I who speak to you am he." Just then his disciples came. They marveled that he was talking with a woman, but none said, "What do you wish?" or, "Why are you talking with her?" So the woman left her water jar, and went away into the city and said to the people, "Come, see a man who told me all that I ever did. Can this be the Christ?" They went out of the city and were coming to him. Meanwhile the disciples besought him, saying "Rabbi, eat." But he said to them, "I have food to eat of which you do not know." So the disciples said to one another, "Has anyone brought him food?" Jesus said to them, "My food is to do the will of him who sent me, and to accomplish his work. Do you not say, 'There are yet four months, then comes the harvest'? I tell you, lift up your eyes, and see how the fields are already white for harvest. He who reaps receives wages, and gathers fruit for eternal life, so that sower and reaper may rejoice together. For here the saying holds true, 'One sows and another reaps.' I sent you to reap that for which you did not labor; others have labored, and you have entered into their labor." Many Samaritans from that city believed in him because of the woman's testimony. "He told me all that I ever did." So when the Samaritans came to him, they asked him to stay with them; and he stayed there two days. And many more believed because of his word. They said to the woman, "It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard ourselves, and we know that this is indeed Christ the Savior of the world."

# TODAY

## Sunday of the Samaritan Woman

Altar Group Today: Basil

Greek Pontian Genocide Memorial

General Assembly Meeting 12:30pm

## THIS WEEK IN THE PARISH

**Monday, May 19**

No Bible Study

**Sunday, May 25**

**Sunday of the Blind Mann**

Matins 8:45am

Liturgy 10am



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Website: [www.stmarkella.org](http://www.stmarkella.org)

**Narthex Committee:** *Elizabeth Pugh – Chair John Walker – Co -Chair,  
Aaron Bradley, Liora Fallon, Cristina Jackson, Evelyn Mosley, Steve Paros*

**Altar:** *Tim Boolos – Altar Group Leader*

**Black Robes:** *Jacob Batt, Gabriel Fallon, Michael Mosley,  
Chris Meyers, Jack Pugh, and Dylan Zeck*

**Group Basil:** *Jonathan Morgan, Damian Mosley, Gabriel Mosley, Michael Simpson*  
**Group Chrysostom:** *Levi Bigham, Cosmas Mosley, Bartholomew Mosley, Jonas Mosley*

**Music:** *Matthew Morgan, - Choir Director*  
*Chanters – Cristina Jackson, Andrew McBroom, Megan Morgan, Michael Mosley*

**Video:** *Matthew and Megan Morgan*

# ANNOUNCEMENTS

## PARISH GENERAL ASSEMBLY TODAY

Our Annual Spring General Assembly will be after the Divine Liturgy today in the fellowship hall. If you would like to present an item for the

## ZOOM LINK FOR ALL MEETINGS CURRENTLY

Meeting ID: 869 106 3878 Password: 19641975 <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/8691063878?pwd=MHViamRaaHRFVHByQkhrSzhoMzRYQT09>

Thank You to Evan Kilpatrick & Breanna Martins for Coffee Hour on Sunday, May 11, 2025!

## Bookstore

Children's Books  
\$3.00

Liturgy Books  
Phonetic Greek  
English and  
Explanation



## WELCOME TO OUR VISITORS

We welcome people of all faiths and denominations to worship with us and appreciate your joining us. For those who are not Orthodox Christians, we ask that you not receive the Holy Communion when it is offered to the congregation. Those visitors who are Orthodox Christians may receive Communion provided you normally receive it at your home parish and have not been restricted in any way.

# PRAY FOR OUR LOVED ONES

The Community is praying for the following:

Erica Ailes	Dorothy Eshelman	George Michas
Joy Ailes	Leslie Diamond Faulkner	Lil' Michael Michas
Jan Aker	Tim Feeney	Nina Michas
Vasio Arvanites	Shirley Feltman	Zachary Nations
Tim & Vicki Boolos	Zachary Fletcher	Rebecca Pallone
Kathy Bowdoin & Family	Betty Floyd	Janice Parton
Aaron, Trina, Gabriel, & Liora Bradley	Angie Furst	Anastas & Betsy Pazevic
Judy & Sophia Bradley	Alan Gardner	Joann Yanora Salazar
Donna Branch	Dean Gigicos	Judy Savage
Lawrence & Kim Broadus	Diana Green	Edward Scruggs
Christopher Brockman	Brian Guthrie	& Family
Kevin Byrne	Diana Guthrie	George Sigalos
Penelope Calabrese	Demetrios Hadjisimos	Melissa Simpson
Mary Campbell	Shannon Holst	Stanojka Stevanovic
Litsa Carrion	Jake Hoskin	David Stewart
Charles B. Chapman	Mallory & Bob Howard	Janet Sutherland
Bob Choinski	Katheryn Kaffoglou	Matthew Sweetser
Jim and Taylor Clark	Mary Spiridoula Kalista	Susan Tringas
Vonni Cobb	George Karov	Dana Visioiu
Angela Walters Comfort	Julie Mamani	Badra Walters
Max Copeland	Marika Maris	Mary Walters
Christa Diviney	Kelly Maris	Dwight Ward
Betty Dodson	Vladimir Marling	Nikole G. Webb
Jamie Douglas	Angela McBroom	Gary Wilson
Shannon Durham and Family	Ariel McBroom	
Catherine Emanuel	Nicholas McBroom	
	Michael Meyers	All service men & women who are deployed overseas
	Andrew Michas	

## 2025 PARISH COUNCIL

Fr. John Wallace	Lark Bostick
Maria McCloud-President	Aaron Crosby
Aaron Bradley-Vice President	Terri Grammas
Tim Boolos-Treasurer	Megan Morgan
Andy McBroom-Secretary	Gregg Mullen

If you would like to contact a parish council member, please reach out to the church office for their email address and/or telephone number.



# STEWARDSHIP

*We are very grateful to our Families for their 2025 Stewardship*

Charles and Margaret Abbate  
Anthony and Miriam Aldehneh  
Alex Balan and Nikolina Nisiewicz  
Jacon and Courtney Batt  
Tim and Vicki Boolos  
Lark Bostick  
Aaron and Trina Bradley  
Axel and Eleftheria Carrion  
Mary Cook-Dennis  
Aaron and Vivian Crosby  
Barbara Denamur  
Harold and Anita Diamond  
Keith and Rebecca Fletcher  
Tom, Laura, Annabelle, and  
Emmett Fredericks  
Malpa Fuller  
Carlo and Stella Gammaitoni  
Alan and Mary Gardner  
Ion and Ana Ghetiu  
Georgia and Irene Gianaris  
Terri Grammas  
Suzan Bosnake Greer  
Charles & Meagan Haje  
Cristina Jackson  
Mihai Jauca  
Georgia Jensen  
George Karov  
Craig Kasch  
Kevin and Janet Kennedy  
Andrew and Angela McBroom  
Louis and Maria McCloud  
Dr. and Mrs. Andrew and Franci Michas  
Dr. Elizabeth Michas  
Dr. and Mrs. George and Nina Michas

John and Connie Morgan  
Matthew, Megan and  
Jonathan Morgan  
Dr. and Mrs. William and Mary Morris  
Robert and Margaret Morrison  
Nathanael and Sarah Mosley  
Timothy and Karmin Mosley  
Gregg Mullen  
Joe and Despina O'Neil  
Garry and Patti Overholt  
Nicholas and Tanya Papadopoulos  
Samuel and Nora Pappas  
Steve and Veta Paros  
Anastas & Betsy Pazevic  
Scott and Jasmine Porterfield  
Scott and Katarina Potter  
The Pugh Family  
William Michael and Katherine Randall  
Joann Yanora Salazar  
The Simpson Family  
Angelos and Katrina Thomas  
Nicholas, Candace,  
Kosta, Wynnie and Fields Vlahos  
John Walker  
Fr. John and Presv. Mary Wallace  
Joyce Walter  
Efstratia Watson  
Rodney and Jamilah Williams  
Gary and Teresa Wilson  
The Youssef Family

*Thank You to Our Anonymous Donors - "But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing." (Matt. 6:3) Thank you to our anonymous donors who give of their resources with a request to remain unidentified. While we print the names of our stewards as per the regulations of the Archdiocese, we honor those who wish to remain anonymous. One encourages by public example while the other supports without attention; both Glorify God.*

## **Greek Pontian Genocide**

The Greek Orthodox Genocide in Pontus refers to the systematic extermination of the native Greek subjects of the Ottoman Empire before, during and after World War I (1914-1923) from Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. It included massacres, forced deportations and death marches, summary expulsions, boycotts, rape, forced conversion to Islam, conscription into labor battalions, arbitrary executions, and destruction of Orthodox Christian cultural, historical and religious monuments. According to various sources, approximately 1 million Ottoman Greeks perished during this period.

All Greek males aged between 21-45 were forcibly conscripted into labor battalions. Most of them perished under appalling conditions being forced to work around the clock with little food or water. In 1915, under the advice of German military personnel. These Greeks were not permitted to take anything with them. Goods in their shops were later sold by Ottoman authorities. They were deported to the interior and to Muslim villages where they were forced to choose between Islam or death. According to figures compiled by the Ecumenical Patriarchate, by 1918, 774,235 Greeks had been deported from their homes, many of them to the interior of Turkey, never to be seen again.

# Sts. Markella & Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church

## May 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 Metropolis Oratorical Festival St. Paul's Greek Orthodox Church Savannah, GA
4 <b>Sunday of the Myrrh-Bearing Women</b> Matins 8:45am Liturgy 10am Philoptochos Meeting 12:30pm Parish Council Meeting 12:30pm	5 Bible Study 9am -Zoom	6	7	8	9	10
11 <b>Sunday of the Paralytic</b> Matins 8:45am Liturgy 10am Mother's Day	12 Bible Study 9am -Zoom	13	14	15	16	17
18 <b>Sunday of the Samaritan Woman</b> Matins 8:45am Liturgy 10am General Assembly	19 No Bible Study	20	21	22	23	24
25 <b>Sunday of the Blind Man</b> Matins 8:45am Liturgy 10am	26 <b>Memorial Day</b> Office Closed No Bible Study	27	28	29 <b>Holy Ascension</b> Matins 8:45am Liturgy 10am	30	31

# PHILOPTOCHOS

THANK YOU, PATTI

Our members would like to offer our most sincere expression of gratitude to Patti Overholt for sharing her time, talent, knowledge and patience at our May meeting.

We had a wonderful experience, and we cannot thank you enough for your generosity towards us all.

We love a theme in Philoptochos, so let's continue...

This summer please purchase and provide:



donations are accepted in the baskets of the Cookie Kostopoulos Fellowship Hall

**HEADS UP!**

**Saturday, June 7, 2025**  
following the  
**Saturday of Souls**  
**Liturgy**

Philoptochos will offer a  
**Potluck Fellowship**  
brief meeting, and then...



...it is time

**to remove the wrinkles**  
**from the carpet again...**

(which means remove the wax from the carpet)

**Bring an iron if you have one, if not,**  
**we have some here.**

**Anyone is welcome to join us.**

**What a wonderful way to offer service**  
**to our Parish Family before kicking off**  
**summer!**

